THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) It was reported in the media (Financial Times) that Pakistan may be negotiating the purchase of six to eight nuclear reactors from China during the next decade to augment its nuclear energy capability. However, the spokesman of Pakistani Foreign Ministry was quoted on 3 January, 2006 by the British Broadcasting Corporation as saying that while Pakistan needed nuclear energy to feed its growing economy, the Financial Times report was "baseless". China has already built a Nuclear Power Plant in Pakistan at Chasma (Chasma-1 of 300 MW). China has also signed an agreement with Pakistan to built another nuclear power plant (Chasma-II). This agreement was concluded before China became a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

(b) to (e) We have a Bilateral Security Dialogue mechanism with China, wherein all the issues impinging on India's national security are discussed.

Indo-Us Nuclear Agreement

423. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority is aware that eight former Indian Ambassadors have issued a press statement on Indo-US nuclear agreement that appeared in national dailies on 7th February, 2006;

(b) if so, whether above statement tends to put aside the present policy of reticence and make public the nuclear deal; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The Government has seen media reports of former diplomats expressing a wide variety of views on the extent and implications of the India-US understanding on cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

(b) and (c) The Government is presently engaged in difficult and complex talks with the US Government. The delicate and sensitive nature of the ongoing talks and the internationally accepted practices of diplomatic negotiations are being taken into account in approaching this issue. The Government is committed to take the Parliament in confidence, as was reflected in Prime Minister's *suo moto* statement in Parliament on

29 July, 2005. The debate that followed in both the Houses of Parliament provided an occasion to discuss and clarify the issue involved in the civil nuclear understanding. The Government is committed to keep the Parliament informed and Prime Minister in his Press Conference on 1 February, 2006 has stressed on the need for national consensus on this issue.

East Asia Summit at Kuala Lumpur

424. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an East Asia Summit was held at Kuala Lumpur from December 6 to 14, 2005;

(b) if so, whether any lines were drawn therein for an East Asian Community;

(c) if so, the details of the Declaration adopted at the Summit;

(d) whether any differences were noticed there in regard to the position taken by India and China; and

(e) if so, in what manner the same were resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur on December 14, 2005;

(b) and (c) The Leaders exchanged views, *inter-alia*, on the long-term objective of community building as an integral part of the evolving regional architecture. A copy of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit that was signed by the Leaders is attached as Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The discussions at the East Asia Summit were of an informal nature in a Retreat format, wherein the participants shared their respective perspectives on the issues under consideration. The consensus that emerged is reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit.